

him, as does the passion with which they served him and the passion with which he serves the country.

I also came to know Karen and his six kids. They are extraordinary people. RICK is a great leader of his home. Just seeing the love and respect that Karen has for RICK and that his children have for him as a father says a lot about him as an individual as well.

I am going to keep this short. This is completely from the heart. I can say with confidence that as a human being, there have been maybe as good human beings who have served in this Senate, but there have been no better. He is that quality of a human being. His faith leads him to that. I consider it a great privilege to have served with him and to call him a friend over these last 6 years. I know the friendship he and I share will be a lifetime friendship.

RICK, this body will miss you greatly, but no one in this body will miss you more than I.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CHAFEE). The Senator from Pennsylvania is recognized.

#### FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, let me thank my great friend and colleague from Nevada for his very kind words. I thank him for coming to hear my last speech on the floor of the Senate. I know there are many listening who are applauding at this moment for that. But I come here with a wonderful spirit. I have written on the top of the page the same words that I wrote the night of the election, and that is the word "gratitude" because that is all I feel—an incredible sense of gratitude.

Mark Rodgers is my long-time friend and chief of staff, now head of the conference. We were talking again this morning about coming to work every day and walking up to the Capitol Building every day for 16 years now and still feeling that, wow, I work here—every day for 16 years. It was such a gift, such an incredible gift to be blessed to serve the people of the 18th District in the Congress, southwestern Pennsylvania, in Allegheny County, and for 12 incredible years to be able to serve the people of Pennsylvania here.

So first and foremost, I want to thank who is most responsible—and that is God—for this great gift he has bestowed upon me and my family—to be able to serve the greatest country in the history of the world and to serve in a body that is, and hopefully will be, the greatest deliberative body in the world. I think back to my dad, when he came to this country, and my mom, who is a second generation, and I think of how I grew up. It is amazing what a great country this is and how God has bestowed upon me and my family tremendous blessings. So I thank Him for the opportunity he has given me to serve. We are all called to serve. Some are frustrated because they don't think they are in a job or a position in life where they are doing what God has called them to do. God has blessed me

with the opportunity to do this and to serve in a way that I hope he has called me to serve.

Second, I thank my family. Karen and the kids are watching. They have suffered a lot and have sacrificed a lot in 16 years. I was telling JOHN the other day that it is amazing how you think you are doing certain things well, and then you have the opportunity to spend a little more time doing those things and you realize how insufficiently you did them in the past. A phrase from the Bible is ringing in my ears, "the scales falling off of the eyes." In the last month or so, I have had a lot of scales fall from my eyes—to see not just what the 2 years have been to my family, which have been a tough 2 or 3 years, but the accumulation of 16 years in what is a very difficult life. I know everybody here recognizes that because you live it. They know how difficult this life is, how public everything we do and say is or what we are accused of. We think we understand how difficult that is for our family, but I don't think we really do. I want to say thank you to Karen, who I picture in my mind with this T-shirt dress she wore and had stenciled on it "Santorum for Congress." She went knocking on doors in 1990, when no one gave us a chance. We did the impossible. We were able to defeat a 14-year incumbent who no one thought could be beat. I would not have even come close to winning that election but for her.

In 1994, it was the same thing. She went out with the two children at home and she spent day after day—not traveling with, no; she was giving speeches in her own right and traveling all over the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, sacrificing. They continued to do that day after day, year after year. I was a Senator, and I had important things to do.

I tell stories all the time about debates that were held on the floor of the Senate, when I would call Karen and say I had to come back to this very place and say more. There was never a hesitation. She served more than I did. My children—none of them have known their father without being in politics. I got married in 1990 to Karen, and Elizabeth came along 11 months later. Their life has been with their father in politics, in the public arena. They have had to deal with that in both pleasurable ways and some very painful ways. So I thank them for being without their dad far too often. Even when they are with their dad, I am not as attentive as I should have been. But I think they knew and they shared in the endeavor because they knew it was important for them and for our country.

So, hopefully, out of this experience they have been given a sense of purpose, and they know more about what life should be all about and that is to serve—serve God, serve your family, serve your community, and to serve your country. It is a great blessing. I thank them for the opportunity they

have given me, through their sacrifice, to do that for the last 16 years.

I thank my mom and dad and Karen's mom and dad and all in our family who have been supportive every step of the way—sometimes wondering why I was doing this, sometimes unable to walk to the end of the driveway and pick up the paper for fear of what next was going to be said about their son-in-law or son. But they stood with us and fought with us and they comforted us. I thank them.

JOHN mentioned the people who are here in this room, my staff.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed a list of all of the folks who worked for us over the last 12 years in the Senate at the end of my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See Exhibit 1.)

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I wish I could read all these names, but there are a lot of names. These are people who worked for me in my personal office in Washington and in my offices across the State and the people who worked here in Washington in my leadership office at the Senate Republican Conference. JOHN said it so well. These are incredible people. I have had the opportunity now in the last few days to sit and talk with each one of my staff members to find out what they are doing and to get any final thoughts they would have. One after another, I have been amazed at the dedication, intelligence, caring, and the commitment of service they had to the people of Pennsylvania, or to the causes I have attempted to do my best to fight for in the Senate. These are incredibly talented people whom I have been so blessed to be associated with and to work with.

I looked at the list of our legislative accomplishments and I can say, yes, I worked on that, but on the autism legislation, Jennifer Vesey wrote it, not me. She spent 16 months working with 15 offices. In fact, let me do something at this point.

#### COMBATING AUTISM ACT OF 2006

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 843) to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives.

S. 843

*Resolved*, That the bill from the Senate (S. 843) entitled "An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education", do pass with the following amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Combating Autism Act of 2006".*

**SEC. 2. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE; IMPROVING AUTISM-RELATED RESEARCH.**

(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE REGARDING RESEARCH ON AUTISM.—Section 409C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.284g) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “AUTISM” and inserting “AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER”;

(2) by striking the term “autism” each place such term appears (other than the section heading) and inserting “autism spectrum disorder”; and

(3) in subsection (a)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(B) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Director of NIH (in this section referred to as the ‘Director’) shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, expand, intensify, and coordinate the activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder, including basic and clinical research in fields including pathology, developmental neurobiology, genetics, epigenetics, pharmacology, nutrition, immunology, neuroimmunology, neurobehavioral development, endocrinology, gastroenterology, and toxicology. Such research shall investigate the cause (including possible environmental causes), diagnosis or rule out, early detection, prevention, services, supports, intervention, and treatment of autism spectrum disorder.

“(2) CONSOLIDATION.—The Director may consolidate program activities under this section if such consolidation would improve program efficiencies and outcomes.”.

(b) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE GENERALLY.—Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“SEC. 404H. REVIEW OF CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 1, 2008, and periodically thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Director of NIH, shall conduct a review and submit a report to the appropriate committees of the Congress on the centers of excellence.

“(b) REPORT CONTENTS.—Each report under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) Evaluation of the performance and research outcomes of each center of excellence.

“(2) Recommendations for promoting coordination of information among centers of excellence.

“(3) Recommendations for improving the effectiveness, efficiency, and outcomes of the centers of excellence.

“(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘center of excellence’ means an entity receiving funding under this title in its capacity as a center of excellence.”.

**SEC. 3. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

**“PART R—PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM****“SEC. 399AA. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.**

“(a) AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may award grants or cooperative agreements to eligible entities for the collection, analysis, and reporting of State epidemiological data on autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. An eligible entity shall assist with the development and coordination of State autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disability surveillance efforts within a region. In making such awards,

the Secretary may provide direct technical assistance in lieu of cash.

“(2) DATA STANDARDS.—In submitting epidemiological data to the Secretary pursuant to paragraph (1), an eligible entity shall report data according to guidelines prescribed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after consultation with relevant State and local public health officials, private sector developmental disability researchers, and advocates for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive an award under paragraph (1), an entity shall be a public or nonprofit private entity (including a health department of a State or a political subdivision of a State, a university, or any other educational institution), and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(b) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER EPIDEMIOLOGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, award grants or cooperative agreements for the establishment of regional centers of excellence in autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities epidemiology for the purpose of collecting and analyzing information on the number, incidence, correlates, and causes of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or cooperative agreement under paragraph (1), an entity shall submit to the Secretary an application containing such agreements and information as the Secretary may require, including an agreement that the center to be established under the grant or cooperative agreement shall operate in accordance with the following:

“(A) The center will collect, analyze, and report autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disability data according to guidelines prescribed by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after consultation with relevant State and local public health officials, private sector developmental disability researchers, and advocates for individuals with developmental disabilities.

“(B) The center will develop or extend an area of special research expertise (including genetics, epigenetics, and epidemiological research related to environmental exposures), immunology, and other relevant research specialty areas.

“(C) The center will identify eligible cases and controls through its surveillance system and conduct research into factors which may cause or increase the risk of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

“(c) FEDERAL RESPONSE.—The Secretary shall coordinate the Federal response to requests for assistance from State health, mental health, and education department officials regarding potential or alleged autism spectrum disorder or developmental disability clusters.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this part:

“(1) OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.—The term ‘other developmental disabilities’ has the meaning given the term ‘developmental disability’ in section 102(8) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15002(8)).

“(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

“(e) SUNSET.—This section shall not apply after September 30, 2011.

**“SEC. 399BB. AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND INTERVENTION.**

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section—

“(1) to increase awareness, reduce barriers to screening and diagnosis, promote evidence-based

interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities, and train professionals to utilize valid and reliable screening tools to diagnose or rule out and provide evidence-based interventions for children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities; and

“(2) to conduct activities under this section with a focus on an interdisciplinary approach (as defined in programs developed under section 501(a)(2) of the Social Security Act) that will also focus on specific issues for children who are not receiving an early diagnosis and subsequent interventions.

“(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, establish and evaluate activities to—

“(1) provide information and education on autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities to increase public awareness of developmental milestones;

“(2) promote research into the development and validation of reliable screening tools for autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities and disseminate information regarding those screening tools;

“(3) promote early screening of individuals at higher risk for autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities as early as practicable, given evidence-based screening techniques and interventions;

“(4) increase the number of individuals who are able to confirm or rule out a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities;

“(5) increase the number of individuals able to provide evidence-based interventions for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities; and

“(6) promote the use of evidence-based interventions for individuals at higher risk for autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities as early as practicable.

“(c) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, provide culturally competent information regarding autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, risk factors, characteristics, identification, diagnosis or rule out, and evidence-based interventions to meet the needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities and their families through—

“(A) Federal programs, including—

“(i) the Head Start program;

“(ii) the Early Start program;

“(iii) the Healthy Start program;

“(iv) programs under the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990;

“(v) programs under title XIX of the Social Security Act (particularly the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program);

“(vi) the program under title XXI of the Social Security Act (the State Children’s Health Insurance Program);

“(vii) the program under title V of the Social Security Act (the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant Program);

“(viii) the program under parts B and C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(ix) the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children established under section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786); and

“(x) the State grant program under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

“(B) State licensed child care facilities; and

“(C) other community-based organizations or points of entry for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities to receive services.

“(2) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(A) DESIGNATION.—As a condition on the provision of assistance or the conduct of activities under this section with respect to a State,

the Secretary may require the Governor of the State—

“(i) to designate a public agency as a lead agency to coordinate the activities provided for under paragraph (1) in the State at the State level; and

“(ii) acting through such lead agency, to make available to individuals and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives; providers; and other appropriate individuals in the State, comprehensive culturally competent information about State and local resources regarding autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, risk factors, characteristics, identification, diagnosis or rule out, available services and supports, and evidence-based interventions.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS OF AGENCY.—In designating the lead agency under subparagraph (A)(i), the Governor shall—

“(i) select an agency that has demonstrated experience and expertise in—

“(1) autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disability issues; and

“(2) developing, implementing, conducting, and administering programs and delivering education, information, and referral services (including technology-based curriculum-development services) to individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates or authorized representatives, providers, and other appropriate individuals locally and across the State; and

“(ii) consider input from individuals with developmental disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates or authorized representatives, providers, and other appropriate individuals.

“(C) INFORMATION.—Information under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be provided through—

“(i) toll-free telephone numbers;

“(ii) Internet websites;

“(iii) mailings; or

“(iv) such other means as the Governor may require.

“(d) TOOLS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To promote the use of valid and reliable screening tools for autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, the Secretary shall develop a curriculum for continuing education to assist individuals in recognizing the need for valid and reliable screening tools and the use of such tools.

“(2) COLLECTION, STORAGE, COORDINATION, AND AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretary of Education, shall provide for the collection, storage, coordination, and public availability of tools described in paragraph (1), educational materials and other products that are used by the Federal programs referred to in subsection (c)(1)(A), as well as—

“(A) programs authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000;

“(B) early intervention programs or interagency coordinating councils authorized under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

“(C) children with special health care needs programs authorized under title V of the Social Security Act.

“(3) REQUIRED SHARING.—In establishing mechanisms and entities under this subsection, the Secretary, and the Secretary of Education, shall ensure the sharing of tools, materials, and products developed under this subsection among entities receiving funding under this section.

“(e) DIAGNOSIS.—

“(1) TRAINING.—The Secretary, in coordination with activities conducted under title V of the Social Security Act, shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, expand existing interdisciplinary training opportunities or opportunities to increase the number of sites able to diagnose or rule out individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities and ensure that—

“(A) competitive grants or cooperative agreements are awarded to public or nonprofit agen-

cies, including institutions of higher education, to expand existing or develop new maternal and child health interdisciplinary leadership education in neurodevelopmental and related disabilities programs (similar to the programs developed under section 501(a)(2) of the Social Security Act) in States that do not have such a program;

“(B) trainees under such training programs—

“(i) receive an appropriate balance of academic, clinical, and community opportunities;

“(ii) are culturally competent;

“(iii) are ethnically diverse;

“(iv) demonstrate a capacity to evaluate, diagnose or rule out, develop, and provide evidence-based interventions to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities; and

“(v) demonstrate an ability to use a family-centered approach; and

“(C) program sites provide culturally competent services.

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may award one or more grants under this section to provide technical assistance to the network of interdisciplinary training programs.

“(3) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall promote research into additional valid and reliable tools for shortening the time required to confirm or rule out a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities and detecting individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities at an earlier age.

“(f) INTERVENTION.—The Secretary shall promote research, through grants or contracts, to determine the evidence-based practices for interventions for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities, develop guidelines for those interventions, and disseminate information related to such research and guidelines.

“(g) SUNSET.—This section shall not apply after September 30, 2011.

#### “SEC. 399CC. INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a committee, to be known as the ‘Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee’ (in this section referred to as the ‘Committee’), to coordinate all efforts within the Department of Health and Human Services concerning autism spectrum disorder.

“(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In carrying out its duties under this section, the Committee shall—

“(1) develop and annually update a summary of advances in autism spectrum disorder research related to causes, prevention, treatment, early screening, diagnosis or rule out, intervention, and access to services and supports for individuals with autism spectrum disorder;

“(2) monitor Federal activities with respect to autism spectrum disorder;

“(3) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding any appropriate changes to such activities, including recommendations to the Director of NIH with respect to the strategic plan developed under paragraph (5);

“(4) make recommendations to the Secretary regarding public participation in decisions relating to autism spectrum disorder;

“(5) develop and annually update a strategic plan for the conduct of, and support for, autism spectrum disorder research, including proposed budgetary requirements; and

“(6) submit to the Congress such strategic plan and any updates to such plan.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of—

“(A) the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

“(B) the Director of the National Institutes of Health, and the Directors of such national research institutes of the National Institutes of Health as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(C) the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate;

“(D) representatives of other Federal Governmental agencies that serve individuals with autism spectrum disorder such as the Department of Education; and

“(E) the additional members appointed under paragraph (2).

“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—Not fewer than 6 members of the Committee, or 1/3 of the total membership of the Committee, whichever is greater, shall be composed of non-Federal public members to be appointed by the Secretary, of which—

“(A) at least one such member shall be an individual with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder;

“(B) at least one such member shall be a parent or legal guardian of an individual with an autism spectrum disorder; and

“(C) at least one such member shall be a representative of leading research, advocacy, and service organizations for individuals with autism spectrum disorder.

“(d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT; TERMS OF SERVICE; OTHER PROVISIONS.—The following provisions shall apply with respect to the Committee:

“(1) The Committee shall receive necessary and appropriate administrative support from the Secretary.

“(2) Members of the Committee appointed under subsection (c)(2) shall serve for a term of 4 years, and may be reappointed for one or more additional 4 year term. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until a successor has taken office.

“(3) The Committee shall meet at the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Secretary. The Committee shall meet not fewer than 2 times each year.

“(4) All meetings of the Committee shall be public and shall include appropriate time periods for questions and presentations by the public.

“(e) SUBCOMMITTEES; ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP.—In carrying out its functions, the Committee may establish subcommittees and convene workshops and conferences. Such subcommittees shall be composed of Committee members and may hold such meetings as are necessary to enable the subcommittees to carry out their duties.

“(f) SUNSET.—This section shall not apply after September 30, 2011, and the Committee shall be terminated on such date.

#### “SEC. 399DD. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006, the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, shall prepare and submit to the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee of the Senate and the Energy and Commerce Committee of the House of Representatives a progress report on activities related to autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subsection (a) shall contain—

“(1) a description of the progress made in implementing the provisions of the Combating Autism Act of 2006;

“(2) a description of the amounts expended on the implementation of the particular provisions of Combating Autism Act of 2006;

“(3) information on the incidence of autism spectrum disorder and trend data of such incidence since the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006;

“(4) information on the average age of diagnosis for children with autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities, including how that age may have changed over the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act;

“(5) information on the average age for intervention for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities, including how that age may have

changed over the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act;

“(6) information on the average time between initial screening and then diagnosis or rule out for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities, as well as information on the average time between diagnosis and evidence-based intervention for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities;

“(7) information on the effectiveness and outcomes of interventions for individuals diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, including by various subtypes, and other developmental disabilities and how the age of the child may affect such effectiveness;

“(8) information on the effectiveness and outcomes of innovative and newly developed intervention strategies for individuals with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities; and

“(9) information on services and supports provided to individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities who have reached the age of majority (as defined for purposes of section 615(m) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1415(m)).”

(b) **REPEALS.**—The following sections of the Children’s Health Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–310) are repealed:

(1) Section 102 (42 U.S.C. 247b–4b), relating to the Developmental Disabilities Surveillance and Research Program.

(2) Section 103 (42 U.S.C. 247b–4c), relating to information and education.

(3) Section 104 (42 U.S.C. 247b–4d), relating to the Inter-Agency Autism Coordinating Committee.

(4) Section 105 (42 U.S.C. 247b–4e), relating to reports.

#### **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Part R of title III of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### **“SEC. 399EE. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

“(a) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.**—To carry out section 399AA, there are authorized to be appropriated the following:

“(1) For fiscal year 2007, \$15,000,000.

“(2) For fiscal year 2008, \$16,500,000.

“(3) For fiscal year 2009, \$18,000,000.

“(4) or fiscal year 2010, \$19,500,000.

“(5) For fiscal year 2011, \$21,000,000.

“(b) **AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND INTERVENTION.**—To carry out section 399BB, there are authorized to be appropriated the following:

“(1) For fiscal year 2007, \$32,000,000.

“(2) For fiscal year 2008, \$37,000,000.

“(3) For fiscal year 2009, \$42,000,000.

“(4) For fiscal year 2010, \$47,000,000.

“(5) For fiscal year 2011, \$52,000,000.

“(c) **INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE; CERTAIN OTHER PROGRAMS.**—To carry out section 399CC, 409C, and section 404H, there are authorized to be appropriated the following:

“(1) For fiscal year 2007, \$100,000,000.

“(2) For fiscal year 2008, \$114,500,000.

“(3) For fiscal year 2009, \$129,000,000.

“(4) For fiscal year 2010, \$143,500,000.

“(5) For fiscal year 2011, \$158,000,000.”

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 409C of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g) is amended by striking subsection (e) (relating to funding).

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate concur in the House amendment, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, we just passed the combating autism bill that we have been working on for 16 months. I thank Senator DODD for his tremendous work on that. I thank all of the autism groups. I thank Jennifer Vesey for the tremendous work she did and the hours and hours and patience it takes to put together complex and important pieces of legislation.

Later today, or tomorrow, we are going to pass the abandoned mine lands bill. I would love to say that was RICK SANTORUM, but it was Ashley Horning; it wasn’t RICK SANTORUM. She did all the work. I pretty much knew what was in there, and I would negotiate the parts in disagreement. That is what we all do. But on 90 percent of the bills that most of us know about, we didn’t hammer out the details; it was done by folks who have the commitment and vision and effort and work the long hours to make the legislation possible. It is important that in Pennsylvania now we will get a billion dollars to clean up abandoned mines—it is a tremendous contribution to the environment—or miners will have health care coverage paid because, in part, I had a terrific staff person. I can go down through issue after issue and look at these accomplishments that would be great to stand up and say that I did, but I had a tremendous amount of help. I had incredibly talented, gifted people who worked incredible hours.

What most people across America don’t realize is how hard our people around here work. They don’t do it for the money. They don’t do it because they have some agenda to accomplish. They do it because they want to improve America, make America a better place. They want to leave this place better than how they found it. They want to serve because they love this country and they believe in what will make this country better. They work long hours. They don’t get paid as much as they could make if they wandered off the Hill. I will put my folks, both in Washington and across the State, up against anybody. They are sitting in the gallery and here along the railing. They have given their all and I thank them. They served the people of Pennsylvania. Looking at Kevin Roy over there, I think of all of the earmarks—that is a dirty word—that we were able to get to help the people in Pennsylvania in so many ways. I look at work we did for the nonprofit community and welfare and families, and Melanie Looney and her team worked on that.

It has been an incredible group. Our Senate conference, the message folks—it was awfully hard. Republicans are not good on the old message issue. We don’t follow our talking points very well. We try. We try. We have a lot of independent thinkers on our side. God bless them. They always have a better way of saying things than what we suggest or actually not even saying things, thinking things than what we suggest. That is the beauty of our

party. We have a lot of diversity within our party.

We have some very talented people who work very hard, not just a dry message to spin, but to try to move the debate, try to get our causes articulated in a way that is communicated effectively to people across America. They worked hard. They built coalitions. They did their best, and I thank them for their effort and the tremendous service they have given our conference.

I thank the folks in my district offices. Most of those folks have been with me 16 years. We don’t have a lot of turnover in our office. A lot of folks in Pittsburgh have been with me 16 and others around the State have been with me 12 years. They are dedicated people who go out and do those security checks and veterans benefits and med-als.

I will always remember one story that happened this last year. There was a man, a World War II vet named Patrick. I was at a ribbon-cutting for a VA facility in Oakland in Pittsburgh. While I was there, we arranged a little medal presentation to a veteran who had sought a medal and was never given that medal. That is all I knew about it. I showed up. There was this older gentleman sitting in the front row. His name was Patrick.

Patrick was a World War II veteran who served in Patton’s army and was sent on a secret mission to try to liberate a POW camp. In that mission, he was captured. He was imprisoned for several months, I believe, in a German POW camp. When he got out of the Army, he requested a POW medal, but the paperwork didn’t show he had been captured. It was a secret mission, and it never appeared on his military record.

For 60 years, Patrick fought to get his designation as a POW. He never married. In fact, later in his life after he retired from work, he became somewhat of a recluse because he was kidded by some of his buddies about being a POW. It affected him dramatically, so much so that one of his friends and relatives contacted us to say: Is there anything you can do? Could it possibly be true?

Ann Blocksidge in my office in Pittsburgh, wizard that she is with these issues that she has been working on now for 16 years, knew the places to call and put the records together. We found out, yes, he was, and that was in one place in one record and not in the same place as the other record, and A didn’t talk to B. So we were able to get him his POW medal.

I remember pinning it on him. This older man walked to the microphone. He said: There is one thing I want to say. He said: I finally feel welcomed home.

It is a great story, but the folks in my office and offices all over this Capitol do this every day because they care, because the people call with impossible things, and our folks do impossible things to help them.

I thank all of them for all the service they have done, for doing what I ask them to do when they come into the office: Treat every caller as if it is your grandmother calling. If you treat every caller as if it is your grandmother—hopefully they get along with their grandmother—then things will be fine.

I thank my colleagues. This place gets a lot of ridicule. It is very easy to criticize people in the fishbowl. It is very easy to take shots at people for not living up to expectations, and certainly we all do not live up to expectations. But I think I can say without any reservation that the men and women in this body are good and decent people who are doing what they believe is best for this country.

I know many people find that hard to believe because they look at people and they have beliefs so diametrically opposed to people in this Chamber. I certainly have views—and have demonstrated that on many occasions on the floor of the Senate—that are diametrically opposed to many people in this Chamber. But in my heart, I never questioned the integrity and the sincerity of the people who articulated their opinions, that they were not sincere. I believed them to be sincere and I believed them to believe that it was in the best interest of the country. That is what is supposed to happen here. Ideas are to be debated, points of view are to be discussed, and the prevailing thought of the day will move the country in that direction.

There are very good people here. I tell the people of America: There are very good people here. There are people here on both sides of the aisle who pray every single day for God's guidance. There are people here today who, while we fight and argue, do so out of a passion for doing what is right.

I thank my colleagues for the courtesies they have shown me, and particularly my Republican colleagues for the honor they have given me to serve in the leadership for 6 years. I know that was not an easy decision back in 2001 to elect someone who had a reputation of being somewhat of a bomb thrower in the House and in my early Senate days to a position of leadership in the Senate. They took a risk. I hope they feel it has paid off.

It has certainly been a great blessing to me to have been able to serve my colleagues in the capacity of conference chairman.

It is an incredible group of people. I think of John, who is my tennis partner. We played our first match after I was defeated, and he beat me 6-love, 6-1. He thinks it is because he played better, but I am just preparing for other employment.

We have prayer groups here. One of the most important things in my life over the past 12 years has been the Senate prayer group, the Senate Bible study, and the prayer breakfasts, the small prayer group with which I have been involved. I don't know how people do it. I don't know how people do this

business without prayer, without an understanding that there is something bigger than us here, something that will help us, guide us, lift us up at times when there seems to be no other reason to be lifted up.

I thank all of those who prayed with me and prayed for me. Lloyd Ogilvie, a chaplain here for many years, and Barry Black, our Chaplain now—they are prayer warriors for all of us. I know they pray for us every day. I know Lloyd still prays for us every day, and I know millions of Americans pray for us every day. I thank all of them for helping me through and helping us and helping our country through these difficult times.

I thank our leader, BILL FRIST, my first leader I served under as a member of the leadership, TRENT LOTT, and the leader I served under when I came to the Senate, BOB DOLE. Each and every one of them in their own way led differently. But in the case of Senator DOLE, he was a larger-than-life figure to me, coming over to the Senate as a 36-year-old Senator. He was on his way to run for the Presidency. He took the time to be concerned about the issues that were important to me. He put me on the committees I needed to be on and gave me the opportunity that I will never forget and certainly will always be thankful for—to manage and work on the welfare reform bill back in 1996.

Of all the things I accomplished in the Senate, there is nothing I am more proud of than what we did in 1996 to reform the welfare system and transition it so millions and millions would fall off the rolls, find gainful employment, and change their lives and the lives of their families. I owe that to BOB DOLE. He gave me the opportunity to stand at that manager's chair for months in my second year in the Senate and taking on what I would argue was the most important piece of legislation in that session of the Congress, the Republican revolution.

I thank TRENT LOTT not only for his tutelage and mentoring me in the time I have been here as a leader, but for helping me in gaining leadership and being involved in the leadership in the Senate.

I thank BILL FRIST for his friendship. His coming in as a leader when I was already in the leadership was a little different. He didn't come in and point the finger and boss around, but he came in to learn. He came in to engage, to try to take the knowledge that was in the leadership group and use it to build a stronger group. I appreciate that.

There is a humility in BILL FRIST. It is a very attractive quality and, I might also add, a rather rare quality if one is in the Senate, but a very attractive one and a very important one in Senators and leaders.

I thank, I guess finally, the people of Pennsylvania. I was talking to Jim Towey. Jim is the new president of Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, PA.

Jim is the former director of the faith-based office for the President. I called him the other day. He said: You know, Rick, I have been here—I think he said 6 months. He said: I really like the State, like the area, good people. But the more I study the State and the more I get the feel of Pennsylvania, I have one question: It is not how did you lose the election, but how did you get elected here twice?

I got elected twice because I had a lot of wonderful people who campaigned hard, worked hard, and believed in me and were able to maybe see past some of the differences with me to give me an opportunity to serve here, and I am eternally grateful.

It is an incredible State. It is one I got to know very well and, obviously, got to know thousands of people. I had the opportunity to serve them. I had the opportunity to be scolded by them, reprimanded by them. But I always understood they were my employers. I work for them. And when you work for somebody, sometimes they are going to tell you they don't like the job you are doing. And you better act like someone who is an employee instead of an employer or you are not going to find yourself as an employee very much longer. Well, I tried to act like an employee. But that doesn't mean I always had to agree with my employer, and a lot of times I didn't. And maybe I spoke up too often too loudly and too boldly on some of the things that my employer didn't agree with. I hope they respect the fact that it was a heartfelt disagreement and that I did what I did and I said what I said because I believed it was in their best interests, even though they may not have thought so.

I respect the fact that I didn't win this election and that the people of Pennsylvania made a different decision. I had an opportunity to meet with my successor today in my office and get a chance to talk with him about some of the ins and outs of the Senate. He is a good man, and he will do a good job. I hope the people of Pennsylvania will give him and extend to him the same courtesies and trust and cooperation that so many Pennsylvanians who didn't agree with me on a lot of things but knew that it was important to work together—such as our Governor, Ed Rendell, whom I worked with as mayor and as Governor, as well as I did with any Republican that I know—I hope that Republican officeholders in Pennsylvania treat my opponent with the same kind of respect and the same kind of cooperation that Governor Rendell and I have had over the years.

That brings me to my colleague, Senator SPECTER. It was very kind of ARLEN to come and say a few words. He said that we are not only colleagues in the Senate and, obviously, colleagues from Pennsylvania, but we are friends. I have to tell my colleagues, when I first came to the Senate, I thought it was a very long shot that I would be friends with ARLEN SPECTER. All I had

heard about ARLEN SPECTER was how prickly a character he is, how difficult he is, sort of cold and tough. But he is a pretty soft guy. He really is. He gets those granddaughters around him and he just melts. No, he is a good man. I don't agree with ARLEN a lot, and of course everybody knows that, but ARLEN has been a good partner. We have worked on a lot of things together. And even when we disagreed, we understood and respected the disagreement and didn't let it affect us, or certainly our relationship, or if it was important enough to us and important enough to the State and important enough to the country, we worked hard to try to bridge those differences. I think that is a good model. I recommend it to my successor. I recommend it to all my colleagues.

This place doesn't have to be as personally confrontational as it is. I say that as someone who was pretty personally combative when I first came here. I know that I have had some pretty strident debates on the floor of the Senate, but I will tell my colleagues that in my heart, it was never personal, it was always about what the issue was about. And it is hard for a lot of people in America who look at it in a culture that takes everything personally—people have asked me why I have been so comfortable and at ease with what has happened, and it is because I don't take it personally. People disagree with where I wanted to take this country, and that is fine. They will have an opportunity to take it someplace else, for now.

But I don't take it personally. I look at the empty desks of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I look at each and every one and I can see them all sitting there, and I can't think of one that I would take a disagreement with personally—and I have had disagreements with virtually every one but all of them have disagreed, hopefully without being personally disagreeable. That is how this place works. It is the only way it can work and be successful for America.

In closing, I want to say that I always come back to the word "gratitude." To God, to my family, to my colleagues, to the wonderful people who have worked for me and with me over the years, to the people of the 18th Congressional District, to the people of Pennsylvania: Thank you. Thank you. I don't know what I will be doing next, but I cannot imagine that anything I do in the future will rival the kind of blessings I have felt from all of the folks whom I have mentioned. The relationships and the wonderful accomplishments and the great spirit I have experienced over these last 16 years is something that I am eternally grateful for to all of those involved. It has been a great blessing.

I thank my colleagues, I thank those who came and listened, those who might be listening in other ways, but I thank them, personally, for the great kindness they have shown me. I leave a

very happy and contented former Senator from Pennsylvania who feels very blessed.

## EXHIBIT 1

## SENATE PERSONAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES

Aho, Robert W.; Anderson, Thomas S.; Armata, Andrew M. T.; Baldwin, Todd A.; Barbera, Vincent M.; Barron, Bruce A.; Bashore, Keith E.; Beresnyak, Allison M.; Beresnyak, Thomas E. Jr.; Bernier, George M. III; Bernstein, Luke M.; Berry, Donna A.; Bertuola, Lawrence J.; Beynon, Matthew E.; Bickhart, Robert G.; Blocksidge, Anne M.; Bonesso, Rozzanna J.; Bowman, Patricia Dianne; Bowser, Julia E.; Boyd, Allison J.; Bozzuto, Robert F.; Bragg, Heather N.; Broughton, Aaron Michael; Brown, Brian T.; Burkhalter, Colin J.; Butler, Timothy R.; Caldwell, Stanley D.; Calka, Courtney JO.; Carlson, Michael R.; Carter, Andrew C.; Castillo, Michael J.; Chapman, Elizabeth R.; Christman, David R.; Clater, Michael D.; Cognato, Christopher; Cognato, Michael H.; Coleman, Samuel E.; Collins, Leah R.; Conklin, Jennifer M.; Coppolo, Stephen D.

Corman, Jacob D. III; Coulter, Kathryn A.; Covell, Michelle F.; Crane, Rebecca H.; Curry, Margaret K.; Daniel, Kelly L.; Davidek, Jason E.; Davis, Mary Elizabeth A.; Davis, Virginia L.; Dermody, Brandon D.; Devito, William J.; Dick, John T.; Diehl, Samuel W.; Dougherty, Kara A.; Doyle, Lyda A.; Dutkowski, Margaret C.; Ely, Ramona J.; Ensslin, Mary T.; Evans, Andrea L.; Faulk, Page C.

Faustino, Mary A.; Feenstra, Paul A.; Feller, Meredith L.; Ferguson, Sarah E.; Ferrara, Lorenzo L.; Finney, Thomas S.; Fischer, Karen E.; Fratto, Salvatore A.; French, David G.; French, John M. III; Galko, Vincent A.; Garver, Nancy L.; Gaston, Shivelia T.; Gemma, Peter B. Jr.; Genesio, Christine J.; Gerry, Keith M.; Gorman, Victoria Lynn; Greco, Michael P.; Greene, Charles M.; Gresov, Winston G.

Gutierrez, Jennifer C.; Haberkern, Jeffery J.; Hall, David M.; Harbula, David Scott; Harvey, Marcus W.; Hershey, Jill E.; Hershey, Michael S.; Hoadley, Cassandra; Holcombe, Sara K.; Hornbake, Lawrence E.; Horne, Wesley O.; Horning, Ashley E.; Howard, Jaime L.; Hybels, Amy R.; Irvine, Walter G. Jr.; Irwin, Christine E.; Ivanov, Florina D.; Johnson, Thomas O. II; Kauffman, Alexander J.; Kelly, Caitlin B.

Kennedy, Brian D.; Kinsman, Chelsea M.; Kitchen, Michelle L.; Kocan, Sheila T.; Koutsouroumbas, Athan; Kuklis, Joseph V.; Laager, Maryanne R.; Ladd, Abigail A.; Larcinese, Mary E.; Laurenson, Craig A.; Lebaudy, Laura A.; Leidner, Kristina S.; Leinbach, Christian Y.; Lewandowski, Leslie L.; Lindenberger, Stephanie Ann; Lofton, Marian Victoria; Looney, Melanie L.; Lyle, Stephen T.; Lynch, Stephanie F.; Maclean, Heather Marie.

Maddox, Audrey C.; Maguire, Erin K.; Mahon, Emmet M.; Maines, Laura A.; Martin, David; Martin, John E. Jr.; Mattei, Thomas J. Jr.; Matthews, Shawna Lee; McClard, Melissa J.; McCoy, Ida M.; Mcracken, David E.; McCrete, Michael R.; Medonald, Robin V.; McElwee, George S.; McGinley, Christopher P.; McKeon, Meredith; McNamara, Kevin M.; Medina, Wanda I.; Meyer, Christine M.; Mihalke, Michael H.

Miller, Eric R.; Miller, Jennifer L.; Miller, Manda B.; Miller, Nicole M.; Miller, William A.; Mitchell, Anna K.; Mitchell, Marcus P.; Mizer, Erica L.; Molineaux, Peter J.; Moore, Thomas; Moore, Zachery P.; Moringo, Nicholas; Morton, Bylly Jo; Mullen, James G.; Narcavage, Michael III; Navin, Lawrence M.; Ohara, Gerald J.; Oshea, Joseph J.; Pallotto, Adam R.; Palmer, Wayne D.

Park, Victoria P.; Parrick-Cox, Susan; Patel, Kajal A.; Pavlik, Bonnie M.; Peacock, Deborah A.; Pearson, Tim; Perez, Janet M.; Petraglia, Amy W.; Poteet, Paul W.; Preate,

Alexandra V.; Pugh, Jennifer S.; Quinn, Christine Marie; Rajsic, Michelle; Ramos, Josephina; Reilly, Sean M.; Reyes, Jeremy; Rhodes, Allison L.; Riegel, Ellen J.; Rockwell, Russel A.; Rode, Katherine R.

Rodgers, Lincoln R. C.; Roman, Lisa M.; Romaniello, Catherine M.; Roscoe, Abigail; Rossi, Connie J.; Rossman, Eleanor T.; Roy, Kevin F.; Ryan, Maureen; Sailhamer, Brent A.; Salvesen, Erling R. III; Sanborn, Alden R.; Sanders, Joseph E. Jr.; Sarmir, Danielle; Scanlan, Tricia L.; Scaringi, M. Anthony; Schmidt, Keith A.; Schmidt, Michele E.; Sears, William P.; Sechler, Michael W.; Shaner, Mathias R.

Sharp, Crystal N.; Sharp, Trudy R.; Shelby, Melissa B.; Sheriff, Marie A.; Shirk, Jamie E.; Shott, Christine M.; Simodejka, Jill L.; Sinha, Sushant K.; Smith, Brian A.; Smith, Jacob W.; Solfanelli, Matthew; Soroka, Suzanne M.; Sosar, Edward D.; Spangler, Courtney Leigh; Sparvero, Emily S.; Stawasz, Karen L.; Stein, Peter J.; Stephans, Elizabeth L.; Stolnacher, Patricia L.; Stoltzfoos, Gerald D.

Stoltzfoos, Jeffery L.; Strickland, Carolyn; Strothman, Alexis A.; Stuart, Robert R.; Swain, Tooshar K.; Swartz, Barbara K.; Sweeny, Jennifer Mahurin; Sybyl, Julie M.; Szy, Daniel J.; Taylor, David N.; Tekel, Adam R.; Thompson, Holly; Titus-Young, Joy J.; Traynham, Robert L.; Trego, Joshua S.; Tulyasathein, Charnsin; Turner, Michelle D.; Ugruhart, E. Randy; Valdes, Stephen G.; Vanderpool, Kristen R.

Vesey, Jennifer L.; Voinski, John A.; Vulakovich, Randolph P.; Walker, Patricia B.; Wall, Toni B.; Walters, Christopher F.; Watson, D. Dexter; Weaver, Chad A.; Weber, David; Weiss, Todd M.; White, Jennifer S.; Wiesenfeld, Michael A.; Williamson, N. Kathy; Willis, Jessica R.; Wittman, Anne E.; Wright, Erica Clayton; Wusinich, Maria T.; Yanoshak, Erica M.; Younger, Anita.

## SENATE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE EMPLOYEES

Amy Marie Adams; Jeff Hunt; Garrett Fahy; Joel Digrado; Kate Harris; Shonda Werry; Cris Clapp; Melissa Seckora Anderson; Elizabeth Keys; Barbara Ledeon; Chrissy Shott; Sarah Berk; Mark Rodgers; Randy Brandt; Katherine Gonzalez; Carlos Gonzalez; Lane Marshall; Cyrus Pearson; Robert Traynham; Henry Peterson; Chris Angrisani; Laura Gill.

Nick Schweich; Aaron Broughton; Tim Petty; Curtis Swager; Nate Green; David Song; Michael Bleicher; Jen Sweeney; Joy Schmidt; Eden Gordon; Susana Levenson; Eric Miller; Chris Myers; Rebecca Cotton; Drew Cantor; Alex Kaufman; John Rankin; Dan Ronayne; Eric Ruiz; Loredana Vouto; Deidre Woodbyrne.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

**Mr. MCCONNELL.** Mr. President, I wish to say to my good friend from Pennsylvania, before he leaves the floor, what an extraordinary 16 years he has had representing the people of his State and what a truly outstanding Member of the Senate he has been and what a moving farewell address I had an opportunity to witness. Good luck, good friend, and Godspeed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the pending nomination occur at 5:45 today and that prior to the vote, Senator GRASSLEY be recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes, Senator ENZI for up to 5 minutes, and Senator KENNEDY for up to 5 minutes.

**The PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

**Mr. FEINGOLD.** Mr. President, I am pleased that the Food and Drug Administration will finally have a confirmed



Commissioner. And I am glad that the President's nominee, Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, has acted to address concerns that have been raised about his nomination. He addressed conflict-of-interest concerns by resigning his position as head of the National Cancer Institute. The FDA also approved access to emergency contraception without a prescription. This decision should have been made when the FDA's expert panel recommended it, and I was disappointed at the shameless politicizing of science over emergency contraception. With those issues now resolved, I will vote for his nomination.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the nomination of Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach to be Commissioner Food and Drugs.

I am pleased that the Senate is considering Dr. von Eschenbach's nomination and I strongly urge my colleagues to support him because the FDA needs a permanent Commissioner to lead the agency. The FDA has been criticized time and time again over this. To me, the first step toward promoting stability in the agency is for the Senate to confirm an FDA Commissioner. Dr. von Eschenbach is a capable administrator, extremely knowledgeable about health care and food and drug policy, and we can count on him to do the right thing. It is past the time that he be confirmed.

I had the opportunity to work with Dr. von Eschenbach when he was the Director of the National Cancer Institute and found him to be personable and engaging. I also had a long meeting with Dr. von Eschenbach before his Senate confirmation hearing and was very impressed with his in depth knowledge on matters before the Food and Drug Administration. But even more impressive, Dr. von Eschenbach truly listened to my ideas regarding the FDA, and I greatly appreciated it. It is clear that he intends to work closely with the Congress.

The bottom line is that I am convinced Dr. von Eschenbach is the best person for the job, and the sooner we get him confirmed, the better.

I would like to take a moment to talk about FDA-related issues facing my home State of Utah and where Dr. von Eschenbach's strong involvement will be crucial.

As my colleagues are aware, Utah is home to the largest concentration of dietary supplement companies in our Nation, so ensuring that the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act, DSHEA, law is strongly and appropriately enforced is a high priority of mine.

I have been told by every FDA Commissioner since Dr. Kessler that the FDA has adequate authority under DSHEA to make certain the supplement marketplace is safe, so it is my hope that Dr. von Eschenbach will make this a priority during his tenure as FDA Commissioner.

In addition, as I have told him on more than one occasion, it is essential

for Dr. von Eschenbach to work to finalize and implement good manufacturing practices—GMPs—for supplements as authorized by DSHEA. It is 12 years since they were authorized. And, despite the repeated contacts Senator HARKIN and I have made, the reportedly drafted regulations have still not been issued. I want to encourage strongly Dr. von Eschenbach to address this matter once and for all.

We will also be counting on the good doctor to implement the new system of mandatory reporting of serious adverse events—AERs—for nonprescription drugs and dietary supplements that is contained in S. 3546, the Hatch-Durbin bill we passed last night. It is my hope the House will pass the bill today—and it can be sent to the President for signature. When enacted, the Hatch-Durbin-Harkin-Enzi-Kennedy bill will require manufacturers of supplements and over-the-counter drugs to report to FDA any reports of serious problems associated with the use of the products. This is an important consumer protection bill, and it is important that FDA seek the funding to implement the program as Congress intends. I stand ready to work with the agency on this.

Another concern I have expressed to Dr. von Eschenbach and his agency is the need to look out for the "little guy" once he becomes Commissioner. Utah is the home to more than 100 medical device companies, many of them small, and I want Dr. von Eschenbach and his staff to treat these companies fairly, especially when the FDA officials conduct inspections. There have been several complaints from manufacturers about the tactics that the FDA inspectors have taken. I think these complaints have merit. All I ask of Dr. von Eschenbach is that Utah companies be treated fairly by the FDA.

I also am deeply concerned about the agency's lack of funding. This has been a growing concern, especially as it affects implementation of DSHEA, the new AEER system, and also the review of generic drug applications. While I realize that FDA has a lot of responsibilities, ranging from ensuring the safety of drugs and medical devices to protecting our country's food supply, it simply isn't fair to continue to pile on these responsibilities without providing the FDA with adequate funding. I assure Dr. von Eschenbach that I will work with him and my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate HELP Committee to ensure that the agency is provided with sufficient funding.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Dr. von Eschenbach today so that the agency will finally have a permanent leader who will look out for the best interests of both the American people and an important Federal agency—the FDA.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise before you today to discuss the nomination of Andrew Von Eschenbach as Commissioner of the FDA.

I first want to say that I love the FDA. FDA is in my home state of Maryland. It employs over 10,000 of my constituents. It is right down the road from the NIH. I am proud to have all that research at NIH and then have FDA in Maryland standing up for the food safety of the American people, looking out to make sure that the drugs and the technologies that we use are safe.

Over the years, I have fought for the right facilities, the right resources, and now the right leadership at the FDA. Dr. Von Eschenbach is an experienced clinician and researcher and as the former Director of National Cancer Institute, NCI, I presume he is committed to the mission of FDA. However, I have concerns. I have yellow flashing light about his commitment to reform over drug safety, to not politicize science, and to establish a channel where employees can speak truth to power.

This is important. As we consider the nomination of Dr. Von Eschenbach, we must address one of the most important issues facing our Nation: the loss of confidence in our Government's ability to ensure the safety of our food, our drugs, and our medical devices. The FDA has always been the gold standard in maintaining the safety and efficacy of our drugs and medical devices.

Yet today the Agency is being politicized and degraded. The current administration has shown a persistent pattern of placing politics before science; making appointments based on ideology instead of competency; stifling scientists whose findings do not meet political objectives; making decisions based on politics, rather than sound science.

Nowhere is this more evident than at the FDA. Today, FDA is facing a crisis: There is a crisis of morale. There is a crisis of confidence in the reliability of FDA decisions. There is a crisis about whether there are scientists operating under a gag rule, putting politics above science. There is a crisis ensuring the reliability and safety of our drugs.

This summer, Union of Concerned Scientists released its survey of the scientists at the FDA. These scientists are my constituents. They found the morale of trusted and respected employees has been battered by years of weak leadership. This survey is important because it gives a public voice to scientists who aren't in a position to place their jobs on the line to suffer retaliation for speaking the truth and to potentially jeopardize their families.

The FDA needs a major overhaul and a culture change at the highest levels in order to continue to meet its mission. The FDA needs to reestablish its relationship with its own scientists. The FDA's focus should be only on science and the public good. And I am hoping that Dr. Von Eschenbach will be the strong leader the FDA needs to accomplish this overhaul.

My criterion for looking at every nomination are competence, integrity,

commitment to the mission of the Agency.

Competence: Management expertise is essential to effectively run FDA without redtape and bureaucracy. The FDA has over 10,000 dedicated employees and has a budget of nearly \$2 billion. Strong management skills and leadership are essential to ensure that FDA can efficiently and effectively carry out its many responsibilities.

Integrity: The individual must be well-respected by patient/consumer groups and the industry so that FDA commands the respect of the public and the industry it regulates. The FDA Commissioner must also be an honest broker and listener who can make tough calls on contentious issues.

Commitment to the mission of the Agency: Decisions must be made based on sound science and public health, not ideology. The nominee must maintain the FDA gold standard of safety and efficacy, ensuring timely approval of new therapies to save lives, help patients live longer and improve their quality of life and ensuring safety of our food supply.

The FDA needs strong leadership. Dr. Von Eschenbach is an experienced and respected scientist. We need his leadership to help Congress establish the legislative framework needed to reform FDA: We need to restore the morale at FDA; we need to restore confidence in the FDA for all Americans; and we need to restore FDA to the world's premier food and safety regulatory agency.

We need his commitment to ensure that the best possible science informs the decisions the FDA makes every day. We need him to ensure a culture of openness so that management listens to and addresses the concerns of your employees. We need him to make significant changes to transform the Agency to the gold standard it once was.

FDA sets the gold standard. Yet today we have ideology over science, ideology over competence. I strongly believe the FDA needs a strong permanent Director. I will therefore vote for Andrew Von Eschenbach in the hopes that he can become that strong leader FDA needs and the American public deserves.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, at 5:45, in just 15 minutes, we will have an opportunity to vote on the nominee to head the Food and Drug Administration. I want to first of all commend my friend, the chairman of our human resource committee, Senator ENZI, for his leadership over this period of time

in giving the assurance to the agency, and much more importantly to the American people, that we are going to have someone in charge of this agency able to exercise executive decisions, to make sure the agency itself is going to fulfill its role in protecting the health of the American people. So first of all, I thank my colleague and friend, Senator ENZI, for making sure we are going to get an opportunity to vote.

I thank the majority leader, Senator FRIST, for making sure that we were not going to leave this session without having a final vote on the nominee.

In the last 5 years, only in one of those years did we have a head of the FDA. The rest of the time, they were "acting." A good deal of the time, there was virtually no presence. This is the most important health agency that guides and guards American's health, the health of our children, the health of the elderly, and the health of families in our Nation. So this is a very important point, and I welcome the opportunity to urge the Senate to approve Andrew von Eschenbach for this position.

As I mentioned, the Food and Drug Administration oversees the products that account for fully a quarter of the entire U.S. economy. Every day, the agency makes decisions that mean the difference between life and death for countless patients. Millions of Americans rely on drugs the FDA approves to protect them from sickness, and every family in America counts on the FDA to see that the food they eat is free from contamination.

Now we are in the life science century, and the opportunities for breakthroughs with new drugs is unlimited. With the progress we have made in the Human Genome Project and the sequencing of the genes, the research that is being done across this Nation, the possibilities are virtually unlimited. But it is all new science. We have to make sure that this agency which is going to make the judgments and decisions about approval or disapproval is going to have the best in terms of scientists, the best in terms of leadership. That is at issue here if we do not have someone who is going to be the head of the FDA to make sure the agency that has responsibility for the safety of prescription drugs is going to work in ways to protect the American consumer; that the agency that is in charge of the food safety in this country is going to work to ensure that it is going to be effective for the American people.

Now the agency itself, the FDA, urgently needs treatment. For too long, it has been without a confirmed leader. It has become a ship without a captain, lacking the initiative and confidence that only a confirmed commissioner can bring. Year after year, under this administration, the FDA has been allowed to drift, and year after year the challenges that face the agency have grown.

Think of the controversies—about antidepressants, about the withdrawal

of Vioxx, about the sale of Plan B over the counter, about adequate review of drugs on the market. The agency has had to struggle unfairly with difficult scientific questions, inadequate resources and authority, and political pressures to ignore the science that must be—good science has to be at the heart of its mission.

Finally, the day is here when the Senate can act to confirm a commissioner whose job No. 1 will be to restore the leadership to this essential agency and begin the process of addressing the many major concerns that have gone unmet for so long.

Dr. von Eschenbach is a good choice to lead the FDA. At the National Cancer Institute, he led bold initiatives on the human genome and nanotechnology. As a physician for patients with cancer and a survivor of cancer himself, he brought an indispensable patient-centered perspective to the Cancer Institute, and he will bring that to the Food and Drug Administration as well.

Dr. von Eschenbach was able to find a solution to the controversy about allowing the over-the-counter sales of Plan B. We may never know the battles he had to fight and win to achieve that solution, but his integrity and tenacity in achieving a solution speak volumes for his character and his commitment to public health.

FDA has long been regarded as the gold standard in regulatory work. That will continue to be true only if it makes independent, science-based decisions, in both fact and appearance, and under Dr. von Eschenbach's leadership, we expect FDA to make those discussions solely on the basis of science and in the best interests of public health. To do the job we expect—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask, if there is no objection, that I be able to proceed for another 4 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, we have to make sure the agency itself is going to have the adequate resources that are going to be necessary to protect the public interest. What we are talking about here is making sure they have the best, in terms of science—in terms of prescription drugs and the new breakthroughs. We have the whole range of new medical devices which are out there. The United States is leading the way. We want to make sure they are safe and effective. The agency has important responsibilities in terms of the safety of our food supply. We have given it additional kinds of responsibilities to deal with the challenges of the war on terror.

This agency has enormous responsibilities in terms of the consumers and the families of this Nation. It needs the strong leadership which I think the nominee can bring, and it needs the kind of support from the Congress that



will permit it to be the true gold standard for safety and for improving the health of the American people.

As other agencies are set up around the world—in Western Europe and now even in Asia—the place they look is at the FDA, and for very good reason. We want this agency to be the best. It can be the best. With a new leader and hopefully with the new Congress giving the agency the kind of support it should have, we can make sure the health of the American people in these important areas is going to be secure for the future.

Again, I thank my friend and colleague from Wyoming for his persistence and tenacity in making sure where we are this evening. We would not be here if it had not been for his good work on this issue, as in so many others. I thank him, and the American people ought to know that this is an enormously important vote to protect their interests. I hope this nominee is approved overwhelmingly.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, for his tremendous effort over the last 2 years as we have worked on health issues but particularly as we have worked on the FDA. The Food and Drug Administration is critical to the people of this country, and Senator KENNEDY and I have been asking to have a fully confirmed person heading that up every opportunity we have had. We have been reminding people they did not want to be the one objecting if there happened to be a national safety crisis in food or health. It is just so critical.

People say he is “acting.” When you are the acting person in a position, you really do not have the authority. It means people are looking over your shoulder, seeing what you are doing, making sure you are dotting every “i” and crossing every “t” and following every rule and listening to every agency that has any control over you. Someone who is fully confirmed can be the boss.

A lot of people would say: Why would this highly qualified doctor take this job?

I am sure now that he has been through the confirmation process, he is probably thinking: Why I would take that job? I am hoping he is not. In fact, earlier today I called him to let him know that the delay in getting a final vote on his confirmation had nothing to do with him, that we had some other logistical process things we were going through, that there would be a final vote today, and that I suspected, in light of the cloture vote, there would not be any problem. I am pleased that it still looks that way. I am anxious to call him and let him know he is fully confirmed as a commissioner and he can start to work on some of the morale problems that he talked about, can start to work on some of the other vision things he has in mind, and people

will know he has the full authority to do that.

I do want to remind people that the FDA's mission is broad. It regulates food, it regulates drugs, it regulates biologics—and I wish I had time to explain all of what that is—medical devices. You probably didn't know that he handles animal feed, and that is because animals are ingested and could cause a problem, too. He is also in charge of cosmetics. For every dollar Americans spend, this agency regulates 25 cents of that dollar in products.

As science progresses, the challenges to regulation will grow. The FDA regulates a host of new products that blur the FDA's traditional boundaries, and that is one of the reasons the Senator from Massachusetts and I have been working on a FDA reform bill for a year and a half. We have now held hearings on that.

It is a very bipartisan bill. We have had some outstanding comments. There is a possibility to make the agency better, and we are going to continue to work on that so that all the new innovations that require a nimble and responsive agency to regulate them, and resources to match, will be in place so that he can do the kind of job he needs to do.

This is such a critical role in our Nation's public health, it is such an important agency, I do ask for people to give him a resounding vote in this confirmation.

Again, I thank Senator KENNEDY, who is the ranking member on the committee and soon to be the chairman of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, for his hard work and support during the process. I think it is time to bring this process to a close so we can get him confirmed as quickly as possible and have a true, fully confirmed Commissioner of Food and Drug.

I thank Dr. von Eschenbach for his patience with our process and for the work he has done in spite of the process. I look forward to getting to see the kind of job he will do as a fully confirmed physician. I ask for your vote in support of him.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a couple of minutes we are going to turn to a very important vote, a vote that to me is significant because it touches every single American in some shape or form. Much has been said over the course of today about the scope of the FDA, the importance of having an FDA Commissioner, a permanent FDA Commissioner, and we will realize that shortly.

Earlier this year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Food and Drug Administration, which is an administration that I have used professionally in my previous profession in everything from the thousands of prescriptions I have written, to investigational drugs, to left ventricular devices, to la-

sers and artificial hearts. I have seen first hand how important it is to have an appropriate regulatory agency there. The Food and Drug Administration, as we all know, as we have said this afternoon, is America's first scientific regulation body. While the agency has adapted and changed with the times, it has remained true to its purpose of protecting interests of everyone who is listening to me, the American consumer.

In a few minutes we will vote on the nomination of a very good friend, Dr. Eschenbach, to the position of Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

I have known Dr. Eschenbach, again professionally, and I have had mutual patients with him. And he has assisted in many ways as we have looked at appropriate therapy for individuals from across the country. He is currently serving as Acting Commissioner. I have interacted with him in that regard. He has demonstrated a capacity to lead and to administer in an exceptional way the Food and Drug Administration with sensitive issues on a daily basis. It is important that we have a permanent person in that position, and he is the ideal person, the ideal candidate to do just that.

In both his professional and personal life, Dr. Eschenbach has experience: as a cancer survivor, as Director of the National Cancer Institute, literally a nationally renowned urologic surgeon and oncologist, which all attest to the superlative qualifications to handle that challenging job, as we all know, as FDA Commissioner.

I hope colleagues will join me in supporting Dr. Eschenbach's nomination.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Andrew von Eschenbach, of Texas, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services?

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senators were necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), and the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID), are necessarily absent.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 80, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—80

Akaka	Domenici	Martinez
Alexander	Dorgan	McConnell
Allard	Durbin	Menendez
Allen	Ensign	Mikulski
Bayh	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennett	Feingold	Murray
Bingaman	Feinstein	Nelson (FL)
Bond	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Boxer	Gregg	Obama
Bunning	Hagel	Pryor
Burr	Harkin	Reed
Byrd	Hutchison	Roberts
Cantwell	Inouye	Rockefeller
Carper	Isakson	Salazar
Chafee	Johnson	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Kennedy	Schumer
Clinton	Kerry	Sessions
Coburn	Kohl	Shelby
Cochran	Kyl	Smith
Coleman	Landrieu	Specter
Collins	Lautenberg	Stabenow
Conrad	Leahy	Stevens
Cornyn	Levin	Sununu
Craig	Lieberman	Thomas
Crapo	Lincoln	Thune
Dayton	Lott	Wyden
Dole	Lugar	

NAYS—11

Baucus	Grassley	Talent
Brownback	Inhofe	Vitter
DeMint	Santorum	Voinovich
DeWine	Snowe	

NOT VOTING—9

Biden	Graham	McCain
Burns	Hatch	Reid
Dodd	Jeffords	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and that the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Oregon.

IRAQ

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I know it is probably appropriate to speak of our colleagues, and I will do that on the record. I rise tonight, however, to speak about a subject heavy on my mind. It is the subject of the war in Iraq.

I have never worn the uniform of my country. I am not a soldier or a veteran. I regret that fact. It is one of the regrets of my life. But I am a student of history, particularly military his-

tory, and it is that perspective which I brought to the Senate 10 years ago as a newly elected Member of this Chamber.

When we came to the vote on Iraq, it was an issue of great moment for me. No issue is more difficult to vote on than war and peace, because it involves the lives of our soldiers, our young men and women. It involves the expenditure of our treasure, putting on the line the prestige of our country. It is not a vote taken lightly. I have tried to be a good soldier in this Chamber. I have tried to support our President, believing at the time of the vote on the war in Iraq that we had been given good intelligence and knowing that Saddam Hussein was a menace to the world, a brutal dictator, a tyrant by any standard, and one who threatened our country in many different ways, through the financing and fomenting of terrorism. For those reasons and believing that we would find weapons of mass destruction, I voted aye.

I have been rather silent on this question ever since. I have been rather quiet because, when I was visiting Oregon troops in Kirkuk in the Kurdish area, the soldiers said to me: Senator, don't tell me you support the troops and not our mission. That gave me pause. But since that time, there have been 2,899 American casualties. There have been over 22,000 American men and women wounded. There has been an expenditure of \$290 billion a figure that approaches the expenditure we have every year on an issue as important as Medicare. We have paid a price in blood and treasure that is beyond calculation by my estimation.

Now, as I witness the slow undoing of our efforts there, I rise to speak from my heart. I was greatly disturbed recently to read a comment by a man I admire in history, one Winston Churchill, who after the British mandate extended to the peoples of Iraq for 5 years, wrote to David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of England:

At present we are paying 8 millions a year for the privilege of living on an ungrateful volcano.

When I read that, I thought, not much has changed. We have to learn the lessons of history and sometimes they are painful because we have made mistakes.

Even though I have not worn the uniform of my country, I, with other colleagues here, love this Nation. I came into politics because I believed in some things. I am unusually proud of the fact of our recent history, the history of our Nation since my own birth. At the end of the Second World War, there were 15 nations on earth that could be counted as democracies that you and I would recognize. Today there are 150 nations on earth that are democratic and free. That would not have happened had the United States been insular and returned to our isolationist roots, had we laid down the mantle of world leadership, had we not seen the

importance of propounding and encouraging the spread of democracy, the rule of law, human rights, and the values of our Bill of Rights. It is a better world because of the United States of America, and the price we have paid is one of blood and treasure.

Now we come to a great crossroads. A commission has just done some, I suppose, good work. I am still evaluating it. I welcome any ideas now because where we are leaves me feeling much like Churchill, that we are paying the price to sit on a mountain that is little more than a volcano of ingratitude.

Yet as I feel that, I remember the pride I felt when the statue of Saddam Hussein came down. I remember the thrill I felt when three times Iraqis risked their own lives to vote democratically in a way that was internationally verifiable as well as legitimate and important. Now all of those memories seem much like ashes to me.

The Iraq Study Group has given us some ideas. I don't know if they are good or not. It does seem to me that it is a recipe for retreat. It is not cut and run, but it is cut and walk. I don't know that that is any more honorable than cutting and running, because cutting and walking involves greater expenditure of our treasure, greater loss of American lives.

Many things have been attributed to George Bush. I have heard him on this floor blamed for every ill, even the weather. But I do not believe him to be a liar. I do not believe him to be a traitor, nor do I believe all the bravado and the statements and the accusations made against him. I believe him to be a very idealistic man. I believe him to have a stubborn backbone. He is not guilty of perfidy, but I do believe he is guilty of believing bad intelligence and giving us the same.

I can't tell you how devastated I was to learn that in fact we were not going to find weapons of mass destruction. But remembering the words of the soldier—don't tell me you support the troops but you don't support my mission—I felt the duty to continue my support. Yet I believe the President is guilty of trying to win a short war and not understanding fully the nature of the ancient hatreds of the Middle East. Iraq is a European creation. At the Treaty of Versailles, the victorious powers put together Kurdish, Sunni, and Shia tribes that had been killing each other for time immemorial. I would like to think there is an Iraqi identity. I would like to remember the purple fingers raised high. But we can not want democracy for Iraq more than they want it for themselves. And what I find now is that our tactics there have failed.

Again, I am not a soldier, but I do know something about military history. And what that tells me is when you are engaged in a war of insurgency, you can't clear and leave. With few exceptions, throughout Iraq that is what